

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 816

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the
“Sorry Works! Pilot Program Act”.

WHEREAS, Sorry Works! is a viable solution to the medical malpractice crisis, and the program is gaining popularity with doctors, insurers, hospitals, patients and lawyers across the country; and

WHEREAS, under Sorry Works!, doctors and hospital staff conduct root-cause analyses after each bad outcome, and if a medical error caused the bad outcome, the doctors and hospital staff members apologize, provide solutions to fix the problem, and offer upfront compensation to the patient, family and their attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Sorry Works! approach removes anger and has been proven to actually reduce the chances of litigation and costly defense litigation bills; and

WHEREAS, the program has worked successfully at hospitals such as the University of Michigan Hospital system, Stanford Medical Center, Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, and the VA Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, a Sorry Works! pilot program in Tennessee would provide an extra incentive for hospitals to try this approach; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee to perform a comprehensive analysis of the “Sorry Works! Pilot Program Act”, which was filed as Senate Bill 3325 and House Bill 3953 in the 104th General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be

appointed by the respective speakers. The speakers shall seek to appoint members who have demonstrated interest in the issue and who will serve actively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state departments and agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that interested and affected groups and associations may be asked to provide information, analyses, and recommendations to the special joint committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member of the committee with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting of the year shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers as the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly no later than February 5, 2007, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.